

## iOS vs Android Revisited

8/27/2010 @ 6:32 am by [Daniel Eisner](#)

So, it looks like I called that one wrong. Or did I? At first glance, it appears that android is a serious contender against the iPhone and IOS. It's even arguable about which one is more popular at this point — do you measure by total units sold, or sales in the most recent quarter? What [...]

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## 4 Reasons the Android vs iPhone Deathmatch Will Never Be

2/25/2010 @ 12:17 am by [Daniel Eisner](#)

A colleague recently asked me who I thought would win the mobile phone wars: Apple or Google. He suggested that Android is a better horse to bet on because Google has virtually unlimited resources to spend until Android dominates the mobile phone market. From reading around the Internet, this seems to be a common misconception.

The expectation of an emerging dominant platform for smart phones comes from general experience with the PC industry, where there has been virtually a single platform for decades. However, the cell phone business is very different from the PC business: while market forces pushed the latter towards platform consolidation, there are several factors keeping mobile platforms distinct. Factor in Google's self-stated motivation for entering this market in the first place and it becomes clear that the current fragmentation of smart phone platforms isn't going to go away any time soon.

Read more.

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## Oracle buys Sun

4/21/2009 @ 9:15 pm by [Daniel Eisner](#)

Once Oracle completes their Sun purchase, who wants to bet that the first thing they do is shut down MySQL?

[http://www.sdtimes.com/ORACLE\\_TO\\_BUY\\_SUN\\_PENDING\\_APPROVAL/About\\_ORACLE\\_and\\_](http://www.sdtimes.com/ORACLE_TO_BUY_SUN_PENDING_APPROVAL/About_ORACLE_and_)

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## SpaceX

2/28/2009 @ 11:39 pm by [Daniel Eisner](#)

This is the company that is going to transform commercial space travel. What do I like about them? You can download the [user manual](#) for the Falcon 9 heavy lift rocket.

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I received some positive feedback from my last **post** — enough that I'm willing to give it a try. So, check out the site **<http://speaksecret.net>**!

The site is written at an introductory level, and will focus on simple instructions to get encryption working in your favorite applications. There will also be articles on how encryption is seen from the popular media and Movies and TV, as well as some of the basic theory.



Recommend it to your friends!

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## The Lack of Encryptionomiconization of the Internet

1/23/2009 @ 6:01 pm by **Daniel Eisner**

I find it interesting which sorts of things get encrypted on the Internet.

Most people know to encrypt their Wi-Fi router, for example. That's because there's been lots of press about it, and many people like to tell stories about how they bum internet service from their neighbors.

A few people know the difference between a regular website and an SSL-encrypted web site. That little lock icon in your browser means that communication between you and the site is relatively secure. However, few people know what it actually means. I won't go down the road (in this post, anyway) of the value of SSL certificates and whether they actually do the job they are supposed to.

And that's about it. SSL and WiFi is the limit of what most people deal with encryption. I'm talking about personal use here, not business. Of course the average IT worker uses a terminal session called SSH which is quite secure, and most businesses have secure VPN's in to their private networks, which are generally also secure. Like WiFi encryption, the what I find interesting there is that the businesses use this mainly for protection of their own internal networks. Their outside communications are generally via email or IM, just like most people's private ones.

And yet there are plenty of free, and not terribly difficult ways you can encrypt your emails and IM's, and even phone calls so that only you and the receiver can communicate. Yet, hardly anyone uses them. In fact, so few people were interested that PGP, one of the best methods for sending emails securely, completely failed as a commercial product even before they started charging for it. Luckily, there is a free GPL replacement, so that the solution is still generally available for anyone who wants to use it (I do).

What am I talking about here? Well, any message you send over the Internet can be read by just about anybody. Any Email. Any IM. Any Skype call. Any message board posting. Now, I'm not paranoid. I agree that statistically speaking, no one really cares about the chain letter of jokes I forwarded to my cousin last week. Right?

Well, maybe not. But what if I sent a bank account number to my wife, so she could check it? You can bet there are bad people on the internet who are on the lookout for such information. What if my friend asks me for my phone number and address so he can send me a party invitation. How do I know it was really him, and that I'm not sending my information to an imposter? What about the government? I mean, you don't have to be paranoid to be worried when the FBI calls their email surveillance system CARNIVORE. For Cripe's sake! They couldn't call it "PEACE" or "LOVE" or something? CARNIVORE?! And before you think that we don't need to worry about this sort of thing anymore, CARNIVORE was initiated by the Clinton administration, not Bush. You know that warrants aren't required, for intercepted emails, right?

So, I'm thinking about creating a blog for encryption-related stuff. Encryption for the lay-person, as it were. I'm not saying everyone is out to get you, but people buy car insurance even though they don't plan on ramming anything.

Would anyone out there find something like that useful? Like easy how-to's to set up encryption in different mail and IM clients, layman-level articles about how encryption works, and why you'd want to use it? It's a bit of work to set up a new web site (and write for it), so I'll only do it if people want it. Leave comments here! (<http://2robots.com/2009/01/23/encryptonomicon>)

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